(d) whether Government has ever monitored that the sanctioned amount is not being diverted to other activities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (e) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends Central Financial Assistance for tourism projects based on the proposals received from them which are complete in all respects as per the Scheme Guidelines, *inter-se* priority and subject to availability of funds. During the year 2008-09, the following tourism projects were sanctioned to Himachal Pradesh as per the following details:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Amount sanctioned
1.	Integrated Development of Una-Bilaspur—Hamirpur Circuit	760.00
2.	Integrated Development of Hamirpur as a Tourist Circuit	600.00
3.	Integrated Development of Solan District as a Circuit	420.00
4.	Integrated Development of Chail as a Destination	480.00
5.	Integrated Development of Jogindernagar Bir Billing as a Destination	427.90
6.	Integrated Development of Naldehra as a Destination	269.76
7.	Organizing Minjar Fair Chamba 2008	5.00
8.	Mountain Biking Event MTB 2008	10.00
9.	Kullu Dussehra 2008	5.00
10	Foodcraft Institute at Dharamsala, District — Kangra	475.00

Implementation of Tourism Projects is responsibility of the State Government. However, Ministry of Tourism monitors the implementation of the projects through review meetings with the concerned State Governments and site visits from time to time.

Eco-tourism

92. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan for development of Eco-tourism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the details of the amount released and the progress made in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to the State Governments/UT Administrations for development of destinations/circuits including Eco-tourism sites under the Scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits, based on the proposals received from State Governments/UT Administrations subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority.

Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 8610.33 lakh for development of tourism destination and circuits in Uttar Pradesh in the last three years. Further, projects for Rs. 312.60 lakh in Dudhwa National Park, Distt. Kheri and Rs. 105.00 lakh for Katerniaghat Wild Life Sanctuary, Distt. Bahraich have been sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism in the year 2005-06 for development of Eco-tourism.

Tourist inflow

93. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to terrorism and global economy it has brought recession and affected tourism in the country;

(b) if so, whether this year with an increase of 15000 tourists in February over January his Ministry is expecting 10 to 20 per cent increase in tourist arrivals in coming months;

(c) whether his Ministry is now trying to focus its campaign on special reasons to visit India in 2009 on spiritual or festivals;

(d) whether his Ministry has earmarked budget of Rs. 20 crores to its all round developing initiative; and

(e) if so, to what extent these measures would help in improving tourist flow to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) and (b) Due to various reasons, including global financial meltdown and terrorist activities, the growths in the foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in 2008 as well as all the months of 2009 so far have been lower than the corresponding periods of preceding year.

Though the number of FTAs increased by about 15000 in February, 2009 over January, 2009, the trend did not continue in the succeeding months. However, the growth rate in monthly FTAs over the corresponding period of previous year observed an encouraging trend in April and May, 2009 as compared to March, 2009.

(c) To attract more foreign tourists to India in 2009, "Visit India 2009" scheme has been launched whereby attractive incentives by way of value addition, including one complimentary local sight seeing tour to any one city of visit and one complimentary rural eco holiday in the country, are offered.

(d) and (e) Budget estimates of the Ministry of Tourism for the year 2009-10 are Rs. 1070 crore for undertaking various tourism development activities such as tourism infrastructure